

who had been told by their leaders that their homeland could never be attacked.

In Belle Fourche, SD, on April 18, South Dakotans will be remembering the 60th anniversary of this daring raid. I commend the Doolittle Raiders, and all American veterans, for they are truly America's heroes. Our country must honor its commitments to veterans, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the smart thing to do.

I will continue to lead efforts to ensure that our nation's military retirees and veterans receive the benefits they were promised years ago. While I am pleased with some improvements in military health care funding passed into law last year, I am concerned that more needs to be done. Assuredly, I will continue to fight for military retirees and veterans programs throughout this session of Congress.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 5, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,772,523,327,634.26, Five trillion, seven hundred seventy-two billion, five hundred twenty-three million, three hundred twenty-seven thousand, six hundred thirty-four dollars and twenty-six cents.

One year ago, April 5, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,758,941,000,000, Five trillion, seven hundred fifty-eight billion, nine hundred forty-one million.

Five years ago, April 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,138,150,000,000, Five trillion, one hundred thirty-eight billion, one hundred fifty million.

Ten years ago, April 5, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,468,754,000,000, Three trillion, four hundred sixty-eight billion, seven hundred fifty-four million.

Twenty-five years ago, April 5, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$595,781,000,000, Five hundred ninety-five billion, seven hundred eighty-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,176,742,327,634.26, Five trillion, one hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred forty-two million, three hundred twenty-seven thousand, six hundred thirty-four dollars and twenty-six cents during the past 25 years.

ANIMAL DISEASE RISK ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION, AND CONTROL ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President I rise today as one of the proud co-sponsors of the Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001.

This bill will go a long way toward offering the American public and producers the vital information necessary to begin to understand the economic

impacts associated with Hoof and Mouth Disease and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The risks associated with these diseases to the public health will also be reviewed.

In the United States, we take great pride and have worked diligently to maintain healthy herds. We have spent years creating our breeding programs and ensuring the animals we produce are the finest in the world. This bill will help ensure that effort will not be jeopardized.

We need to create a solid unified front to ensure that all the information available on these diseases is readily accessible. This bill will not only make that knowledge available, it will provide Congress with the information necessary to move forward quickly with any other type of action that is required. This bill will provide an important tool that will allow us to continue producing the safest meat supply in the world.

I look forward to working with Senators HATCH and HARKIN on this very important piece of legislation.

RETIRED PAY RESTORATION ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 170, the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2001.

S. 170 permits retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reasons of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

Currently, a retired military member will have his or her retirement pay offset dollar for dollar when they receive disability compensation from the Veterans Administration. This law is 110 years old and it is long overdue for change.

The military retirement pay is earned over one's career for longevity, while the VA disability compensation is for a different reason altogether—sustaining an injury while in the service. These are two completely separate issues and military members have suffered over the years by having their retirement pay reduced. The Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2001 will correct this deficiency.

We owe our freedom to those who wore our country's military uniforms. We must honor our commitment to those who served in the military. This year is the time to overturn the provision in the 110 year-old law that prohibits military retirees from receiving concurrent receipt of full military retirement pay along with VA disability compensation. Entitling these people to receive both retirement pay and disability compensation without any deduction is the right thing to do. It is not a hand out; it is something they deserve and earned for serving our country honorably.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 170.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DEATH OF JOHN C. HOYT OF MONTANA

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to make note of the recent death of a great man and fellow Montanan.

Montana lost one of its proudest native sons on Monday, March 26, 2001. John Hoyt died at the Benefis Hospital in Great Falls, during a heart attack catheterization procedure. He was 78.

In Shelby, June 28, 1922, a fascinating and adventurous and truly incredible life began. John's parents had come to Shelby from Iowa. The family's background was in farming and ranching. John's father, a lawyer, raised his family in Shelby during the Great Depression. John spent summers back in Iowa, during the hard times, without modern equipment, without air-conditioning and using a real pitchfork to gather hay in the field and pitch it into the hay mow for the winter. All who knew John, knew those thick hands and fingers of his proved he was no stranger to hard physical work.

John began his college career, on scholarship, at Drake University in Iowa. But, by his own admission, "too much fun" brought that educational experience to an end. Perhaps that was meant to be, because leaving Drake brought John home to Montana, and the University in Missoula, a place where his heart and his loyalty and his support never again left. A true Grizzly is now at rest. But his presence will be forever felt on that campus and in the stadium in Box 102B down on the north end. John will still be cheering on his beloved Grizzlies. He might even give Coach Glenn "a great play" from wherever John is watching!

World War II broke out while John was in undergraduate school at the U of M. The day after Pearl Harbor he joined the Air Force. His eyesight was not good enough to allow him to be the fighter pilot he aspired to be. He proudly became a navigator on a B-24 as a Second Lieutenant. In August of 1944, on a mission between Italy and Vienna, in a fierce air battle involving hundreds of airplanes, John's was shot down by German fighters. The bomber, named the Jolly Roger, spiraled to the ground and only John and one other were able to escape. The spiral carried the other crew to their deaths, and John was captured and was in a P.O.W. camp for most of a year before the army of General George Patton liberated him and many of his comrades.

John finished his education after the war. He graduated from the University of Montana Law School in 1948. For the past fifty-three years John Hoyt

stamped Montana legal history, beginning in Shelby, typing his own oil field title reports with five sheets of carbon paper, and then centering his practice out of Great Falls and becoming one of the most creative and innovative and persuasive trial lawyers in Montana's history.

John was so proud of the many talented lawyers he practiced with. It was recently stated by legal pundits that while it was not required to have practiced with John Hoyt to sit on the Montana Supreme Court, it did not hurt.

John's current firm, Hoyt and Blewett, is one of the most prominent in Montana. He and his partner, Zander Blewett, have represented Montanans with pride and dignity, and his clashes with the Burlington Northern led to a memento in his office portraying the Burlington Northern logo and inscribed, for John, with the words, "Any Time is Train Time"!

John had a lifelong passion for agriculture, and established one of the most noted Black Angus ranches in America, the Jolly Roger. He named it after his former comrades in World War II. In the 1990's two bulls that he developed and raised, Juice and Uncle Jim, became important leaders in carcass quality traits throughout the beef industry. Ironically, John's last yearling bull sale was just last Wednesday, March 21. His bull sold to all areas of Montana, several states, and into Canada.

John Hoyt was a gentleman. He had acquaintances that ranged from the most humble to the most powerful of his fellow citizens. All were equally valued by John as friends. He was an outdoorsman who trained hunting dogs and loved bird hunting. His fishing trips that he led friends on in Alaska were, at the very least, memorable. His wit and enthusiasm and his energy made him the center of any gathering he was ever part of.

John belonged to the Cascade County Bar Association, the Montana Bar Association, the Montana and the American Trial Lawyers Association. John was also an active member of the Montana and American Angus Associations. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Citation by the Montana Trial Lawyers, in recognition of his fifty years of distinguished trial practice in Montana.

John is survived by his wife, Vickie, of the Jolly Roger Ranch in Belt; his son, John Richard (Rosemary) of Washington state; his daughter, Mary Lou (Dennis) Sandretto, and his grandchildren, Rachel, Ariel and David Sandretto, all of Georgia; and his sister, Lois Matsler, of Bloomington, Illinois. He is also survived by countless friends and colleagues and acquaintances throughout his beloved Montana. Montana may never know the likes of John Hoyt again. He left Montana for a

better place. His generous financial gifts to the University of Montana, both the Athletic Department and the Law School will sustain his legacy for generations that come afterwards. As John would say: Up with Montana—Go Griz!•

TRIBUTE TO DON C. NICKERSON

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I'd like to take a few minutes to honor Don C. Nickerson for his outstanding work as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa.

Don Nickerson has been a leader in the state of Iowa for thirty years, starting back when he served as Student Body Vice President and President of the Senior Men's Honorary at Iowa State, and as President of the Black Law Students Association at Drake Law School. After graduating from law school, he distinguished himself in community service, private practice, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District before being appointed as U.S. Attorney for the district in 1993.

During his years in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Don became known as a passionate and innovative leader. He established the Quad Cities Branch Office of the U.S. Attorney's office—the first ever interagency branch office established in the United States. He also served as Chair of the Health Care Fraud Subcommittee of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and worked closely with Attorney General Reno to combat health care fraud.

And Don was a personal mentor to Iowa's youth because he knew that reaching out to children early in life goes a long way in preventing them from straying in the future. In fact, Don was instrumental in establishing Camp DEFY—a camp and mentorship program to help kids stay away from drugs, alcohol and tobacco in Iowa.

But Don has never been content to confine his service to the official duties of the U.S. Attorney. He's brought his passion for service to the classroom, serving as an Instructor with Drake University Legal Clinic and Des Moines Area Community College. He's brought it to civic organizations like Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa, the United Way of Central Iowa and the Iowa Commission on the Aging. And he's brought it to professional organizations like the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Demand Reduction Subcommittee of which he was chair and the Iowa State and National Bar Associations.

When I think of the work that Don Nickerson has done for our state and our country, I'm reminded of a phrase from the Old Testament: "The Law is a light." Don Nickerson has worked tirelessly to keep that light shining bright in Iowa and to make our state a safer, more just place to raise our children and live our lives.

Don has served our state with honor and loyalty, and it is my pleasure to offer my deepest gratitude for his contributions.•

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARNOLD SPIELBERG

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I share with you and my colleagues an extraordinary story about an extraordinary American patriot. The gentleman's name is Arnold Spielberg. Yes, he is the father; but his own fame was earned, long before his son's, as a combat airman of the "Greatest Generation."

Like many of us during World War II, Mr. Spielberg heard the call of our great Nation and enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, just after Pearl Harbor, in January 1942. After several weeks of training at Fort Thomas and in Louisville, KY, he was transferred to the 422nd Signal Company at the New Orleans Army Air Corps Base near Lake Pontchartrain. Private Spielberg then spent the next 3 months doing close order drill and teaching Morse code to unwilling recruits. He recalled that in an effort to get the attention of these unwilling recruits, he would send them "colorful" jokes and stories to keep their attention. It worked.

In May 1942, he boarded a troop ship in Charleston, SC and 2 months later, disembarked in Karachi, India. Once in India, he was stationed at the Leslie Wilson Muslim Hostel working at the Karachi Classification Depot. His job was to essentially open up shipments of war materiel, aircraft parts mostly, check them against the technical manuals to figure out which aircraft they went to and label them. While this was important work, Mr. Spielberg wanted to be closer to the action and asked his Commanding Officer for a transfer to the 490th Bombardment Squadron, Medium. He got it and was on his way.

Corporal Spielberg tackled his new assignment with enthusiasm and vigor. He set up the communications system that serviced the control tower for planes practicing strafing and bombing missions on an island in the Indian Ocean. He also started to train as a radio gunner and learned all about the B-25's, the famous Mitchell bomber, communication equipment, inside and out.

Because of his hard work and diligence, Corporal Spielberg quickly earned the rank of Master Sergeant and the reputation as an expert signalman. He designed a high gain, bi-directional rhombic antenna, using giant bamboo poles for support. Their signal was as clear as "Ma' Bell." He also tackled the somewhat menacing problem of electric power. The base power was supplied by a large British diesel generator that produced 250 volts at 50 cycles. The radio equipment ran on 115